

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A user interface, comprising:
2 at least two objects, each associated with a
3 respective data set consisting of at least one datum;
4 a controller connected to a data store and
5 programmed to perform an operation on said respective data
6 sets;

7 said controller having a receiver;
8 at least one transmitter operatively associated
9 with said at least two objects and responsive to a
10 mechanical state of said at least two objects such that a
11 control signal is transmitted to said receiver
12 corresponding to an operation to be performed on at least
13 one of said data sets and responsive to at least the other
14 of said data sets, said controller being programmed to
15 perform said operation.

1 2. A user interface as in claim 1, wherein said
2 at least two objects are tokens connected by a chain, a
3 wire, string, or filament.

1 3. A user interface as in claim 2, wherein said
2 at least two objects are beads.

1 4. A user interface as in claim 1, further
2 comprising a console operatively associated with said at
3 least two objects, said console housing said transmitter.

1 5. A user interface as in claim 4, wherein said
2 console has a display and at least one control switch, said
3 control signal being responsive to data entered through
4 said at least one control switch and an image of said
5 display being responsive to said control switch.

1 6. A user interface, comprising:
2 a mechanically connected combination of tokens,
3 each associated with a data set;
4 a console interoperable with said tokens;
5 said console having a controller, a transmitter,
6 and an interface;
7 said controller being programmed such that a
8 first mechanical configuration of one of said tokens,
9 effective to interface said one of said tokens with said
10 console, results in the transmission of a command
11 indicating a data exchange operation involving said data
12 set associated with said one of said tokens.

1 7. A user interface as in claim 6, wherein said
2 console has at least one control switch to which said
3 command is responsive.

1 8. A user interface as in claim 6, wherein said
2 tokens are beads connected by one or more flexible
3 connectors.

1 9. A user interface as in claim 6, wherein said
2 interface includes a contact elements that is configured to
3 permit said controller to detect a presence of a one of
4 said tokens that is in contact with said interface.

1 10. A user interface as in claim 6, wherein each
2 of said tokens contains a unique encoded signature
3 transmittable to said controller via said interface such
4 that said controller may distinguish among said tokens.

1 *Sub* ~~11. A user interface wherein each of said tokens~~
2 *at* ~~has a device containing a code uniquely identifying said~~
3 ~~token such that said controller can distinguish between~~
4 ~~said tokens.~~

1 12. A system for controlling a delivery of data
2 to a terminal, comprising:

3 tokens, each corresponding to a set of criteria
4 pertaining selectively to a subset of said data;

5 each of said tokens encoding an identifier;

6 a transmitter operatively associated with said

7 tokens;

8 a data delivery terminal with a receiver for
9 delivering said data to said terminal for display thereon;
10 said transmitter being responsive to said
11 identifier of at least a selected one of said tokens such
12 that a command to filter said data is generated by said
13 transmitter.

1 13. A system as in claim 12, wherein said
2 criteria are stored on a server connected to said data
3 delivery terminal, said identifier being used by said
4 terminal to derive a unique server address of said server.

1 14. A method of accessing data, comprising:
2 encoding tokens with unique identifiers;
3 storing an address on a communication station,
4 said address pointing to a respective data set for each of
5 said tokens;

6 transmitting commands to said communication
7 station to transfer from a first data set to a second data
8 set responsively to a manipulation of said tokens
9 corresponding to said first data set and said second data
10 set.

1 15. A method as in claim 14, wherein said
2 manipulation includes forming a communication connection

3 between a console and said tokens corresponding to said
4 first and second data sets.

1 16. A method as in claim 14, wherein said step
2 of transmitting includes transmitting said unique
3 identifiers of said tokens corresponding to said first and
4 second data sets.

1 17. A method of accessing data, comprising:
2 encoding tokens with unique identifiers;
3 storing an address on a communication station,
4 said address pointing to a respective data set for each of
5 said tokens;
6 manipulating said tokens;
7 transmitting commands to said communication
8 station to filter data delivered to said terminal
9 responsively to criteria defined by said first data set and
10 said second data set;
11 said step of transmitting being responsive to a
12 result of said step of manipulating.

1 18. A method as in claim 17, wherein said step
2 of manipulating includes bringing said tokens corresponding
3 to said first and second data sets into proximity with a
4 console and transferring said unique identifiers to said
5 console.

1 19. A method as in claim 18, wherein said step
2 of transmitting includes transmitting said unique codes of
3 said first and second data sets.